

4th District

State budgeting update from Olympia

April 2007



Rep. Larry Crouse

404 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Phone: (360) 786-7820

E-mail: crouse.larry@leg.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Crouse/>



Rep. Lynn Schindler

403 John L. O'Brien Building
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

Phone: (360) 786-7984

E-mail: schindler.lynn@leg.wa.gov

Website: <http://www.houserepublicans.wa.gov/Schindler/>

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Greetings from Olympia. The legislative session is moving along quickly and concludes April 22. We thought it would be a good time to touch base and let you know what we expect for the homestretch.

The House has passed the state's three budgets – state operating, capital and transportation. We consider these budgets, which determine how your tax dollars are spent, as an important responsibility. We discuss these budgets in more detail in this update, and hope you can take the time to review the information.

Please contact us if you have any questions, comments or concerns. We always welcome your feedback.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signatures of Rep. Larry Crouse and Rep. Lynn Schindler in cursive script.

Rep. Larry Crouse
Rep. Lynn Schindler

P.O. Box 40600
Olympia, WA 98504-0600

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State budgeting update from Olympia

State operating budget



We voted “no” on the House state operating budget because it grows state government too large (18 percent), does not leave a responsible ending balance, and sets the state up for large deficit in the future.

Due to a hot housing market, we have a surplus of over \$2 billion. But our housing market and economy are stabilizing, which will mean fewer state revenues. We believe it is even more important to be fiscally responsible in good economic times to prepare for an economic downturn.

We support a state operating budget that grows government at a responsible rate, has a constitutional rainy day fund, and does not create costly programs that will be difficult to pay for in the future.

We also believe we could have stimulated our economy by taking a portion of the surplus and providing tax relief to homeowners, farmers and small businesses.

Capital budget

We voted “yes” on the House capital budget because it funds important projects in the 4th District – including the Mirabeau Point Children’s Universal Park. This park would accommodate and provide a unique experience for children with developmental disabilities. This budget also includes projects that would benefit our local wildlife, environment and economy.



Transportation budget

We voted “no” on the House transportation budget because it only invests around \$99 million in the North/South freeway. We would like to see this funding be increased to \$270 million and are using our votes to leverage negotiations.

This is a vital transportation project not only for the region, but also the state. We will continue to seek more funding and hope we can get to the right level prior to the session ending April 22.

The 4th District would receive funding for other local transportation projects under this budget. We can provide you with a complete list if you contact us.

